



Church Briefs.

By the Rev. Canon Oldfield.

Church Briefs, by W. A. Bewes, 1896, gives a very complete account of this method of raising money, records of which are to be found in most of our parish registers. In the registers of the parish of Little Wittenham, notes of the amounts paid by briefs are included in the Overseers' accounts from 1730 to 1746. Between 1647 and 1729, in addition to many entries "given to a breefe," there are also particulars given of as many as 274 such appeals. As some of these supplement the information given by Bewes, those who possess that book may be glad to have the following notes. The amounts given are the amounts of the loss sustained where they differ from, or are omitted by Bewes.

- 1660-1. for the rebuyld of Pontefract Church.
1680-1. East Dearham, Norfolk, loss £19443.
1681-2. Stafford, £1944.
Repair of the great Parish Church of St. Albans, Herts.
Ensham, £1330 17 4.
Petition by order of King and Council, and by direction of
the Bishop for a fire at Broad Chalke, Wilts.
1682-3. Elempton, Devon, £1262 19 0.
Caister, Lincs, £6786 13 10.
New Windsor, £5135 13 2.
Presteigne, co. Radnor, £6152 18 0.
St Catherines, London, £4799 19 6.
St Thomas & St Olave, Southwark, £3752 18 0.
Preston Candover, co. Southampton, £1274 18 6.
1683-4. Violent Flood in Braintford River, Mdsex.
St Paul Shadwell, Hamlet of Wapping, in the Parishes of
Whitechapel and Stepney, £56348.
Newmarket, Suff. £20264.
Preserving the Church of Llanumddufery, Caerm, £2500.
Burrough of Bradninch, Devon, fire, £900 and upwards.
1690-1. Stafford, £830 10 0.
St George's, Southwarke, £99000.

- 1698-9. ,Soham, Cambs., £759 and upwards.
 Minhead, co. Som. £4030.
 Drury Lane, £7320.
 Derby Court, Westminster, £3030.
- 1700-1. Beccles, Suff. £7634 19 0.
 St Mary Magd. Bermondsey, £23079 3 6.
 Robert Bale's loss by fire, £1135 8 3.
 Cruckmeal, Salop, £700.
 Repair of Bromeley Ch. Staffs., £3000.
 Broughton, Northants, £2252.
 Leominster Church, Hereford, fire, £14241 18 1.
- 1702-3. Rolleston, Staffs., £1304.
 Haddenham, Bucks., £3715.
 Blaidson, Glosc., £4210.
 Congleton, damage by water, £1620.
 Shutsford, Oxon, £1749 12 4.
 Lutterworth Church, blown down by a storme of wind.
 Ely in the Isle of Ely, £6305.
 Chepstow Church, Mon., £4346.
 Monkes-Kerbie, Warw., Chuch blown down by wind.
 Great Massingham, Nor. £1480.
 House of Wm Catterbank, Longdon, Staffs, £492.
- 1703-4. Wrottesley, Staffs., £800.
- 1704-5. Stony Stratford, £669.
- 1705-6. All Hallows Church, Oxford, damage, £4800.
 Kirton in Lindsey, Lincs., £1000 and upwards.
 Chatteris, Isle of Ely, 1787.
- 1706-7. Wizardsbury, Bucks., £554.
 Reparation of St Cuthbert's Ch., Darlington, £1703.
 North Marston, Bucks., £3465.
 Sheer Lane, Mdsex, £3503.
- 1708-9. Alconbury cum Weston, Hunts., £3310 10 0.
- 1710-1. Rotherish Wall, Surry, £1640.
 Rotherhith Church, Surry, £4361.
- 1711-12. Edinburgh, £3527.
 Fadmore, Yorks., £1163.
- 1712-13. Whitechurch, Salop, fire.
- 1713-14. William Adams, loss by fire, £1101.
- 1715-16. for the Cowkeepers in Mdsex, £24539.
- 1717-18. Oldury Church, Glosc., £1169.
- 1720-21. for sufferers by Thunder Haile &c. in Staffs. £4169.

INVESTMENT OF CHARITABLE FUNDS.

Everybody knows that before the care of the poor was undertaken by the state these poor were aided by the bequests of the richer parishioners. Until the establishment of the banks and other public funds, these bequests, when not in land, were invested in sheep and cattle which were let out to the parishioners at so much a head. But when wool went down in price so that this method was no longer profitable, the money was lent to the farmers in turn at interest. These capital sums formed the Parish Stock. This is illustrated by the following entries in the Churchwardens records of the Parish of Little Wittenham.

Memor. that John Harefoord and John Elton Received of Thomas Lawrence Churchwarden fortie shillings apeese, beeing parte of the stocke for the poore : Thay received it the seuenth day of June Ano Dni 1618, and are to restore it that day twelue moneth ; it was deliuered in the prsents of me Hugh Whistler and of John Millman.

November 23 1628. M. that I Thomas Hardwell (inhabitant) of the pish of Wittenham Abbis in Com. Berks doe acknowledge my self to have received of Thomas Lawrence and Joseph Pisley Churchwardens of Wittenham aforesaid the sume of Seaven pounds of laweful money of England beinge the stocke of ye poore of Wittenham aforesaid wch sume of money I doe bind myself my Executors Administrators and Assignes truelie to satisfie and paie upon the Feast of All Saints next ensuinge the date heareof into the hands of the Churchwardens then being.

In Wittnesse whereof I have hearunto put my hand the daie and yeere above written.

The marke of Thomas Hardwell T H

Subscribed in the prsence of John Powell curat

The X marke of Thomas French.

The Charitable Legacy of John Barnes of London gentleman, Whoe lieth burried heere, in the parrishe Church of little wittenham, Whoe by his last will & Testament, bearinge date the xiiiijth of Maye, in the yere of oure Lorde 1558 : and in the xxxth yere of the raigne of our dreade souereigne Lady, Queene Elizabeth, amongst other very godly dispositions, bequeathed and gave vnto the Inhabitants and howsholders of the saide pish for a perpetuall stock, to be and remayne amongest theym, the some of Twentie powndes of lafull english monney, Which accordingly hath byn paid by his executr Walter Dunche gentleman unto whome he lefte a power, for

the manner and forme, of tne disposicion thereof whoe doeth make this ordynance : as followeth.

First the monney to be equally devided into fower partes, and the fower of the Inhabytants, being howseholders within littell Wittenhm aforesaid to haue fyve pounds a piece delyvered vnto theym for two yeeres.

Item that they and euie of theym put in one sufficient and good sewartie to be bounde in dooble the some for the trewe payment of yt agayne at the ende of twoo yeeres, the sewarties to be suche as Willm Dunche esquier and Mary his wyfe shall like of duringe their lyves, and then their heires after them in suche like sort for evar.

Item that he or they hath hadd the saide monney one twoo yeeres shall not at the ende of same twoo haue yt agayne by no devise or cunnynge vntil it hath gone throwgh the whole Inhabitants and howsholders thereof.

Item that he or they which shall faile of the payment of their monney at the twoo yeeres ende to be excluded for havinge any parte thereof for his defalte duringe his lyfe tyme.

Wa Dunche, p testimoniu Johis Heddei.

Anno domini 1646. The Wordes of the Lady Clarkes will touching the disposall of the tenn poundes giuen by her in Christian Chartyty to the poore of the pish of Little Wittenham.

Item I doe giue vnto the poor of Little Wittenham Tenn pounds to be payed into the hands of Mr. Henry Whistler wthin one moneth after my decease wch I will shall be disposed in manner following (viz).

To be lent vpon good securitie vnto two of the poorer sorte of the parishioners there yearley by equal porcons after the rate of fowre pounds in the hundred ; And I will that the persons that shall haue the sayed money at Interest shall yearely one the feast day of St Thomas the Apostle betwixte the howers of One and Three of the Clocke in the afternoons of the same day be nominated in the pish Church of Little Wittenham afforesayed : And I doe appoynte that the Lord of the Mannour of Little Wittenham for the time being, The parson of the pish of Little Wittenham for the time being, and the Churchwardens of the said pish for the time being, or the maior parte of them then and there prsent shall haue the nomination and apoyntment of those that shall haue the sayd monney ; And in case there shall be equalitie of voyces, then I will that those shall haue the monney wch the Lord of the sayd mannour shall nominate ; And I will that the monney wch shall be yearley due for

the Interest thereof shall at that time and place be diuided amongst the poorest householders of the sayd parish ; to be nominated by the psons afforsayd in manner afforesayd.

AN EARLY ATTEMPT AT INDEXING PARISH REGISTERS.

At the end of the two earliest Registers of the parish of Little Wittenham, an Index has been begun of the names in the preceding pages, arranged in the alphabetical order of the *Christian* names. These Registers date from 1538 to 1598, and from 1558 to 1669, the identical years being duplicated. A note on the first page calls attention to these Indexes, that in the first volume being as follows :—

“ A regester booke for Little witnam begonne in the yere of o^r lord god one thousande five hundred thirtye & eight and in the raigne of Kinge Henry the eyght of famous memory xxx^o.

For the more readyer fydinge oute of any name conteyned in this booke : in the latter end thereof you shall finde three several tables one for christnings an other for maryages, & the thirde for buryalls. and at ye ende of everye name ye number of the leafe. And markinge what letter (ye name you looke for) begineth w^hall, tourne straytwaies vnto ye leaf beinge already nombred and you shall finde it. Desiringe all those that shall come after to observe the same order as they see alreadye begonne. By me Thomas Hearde sometome curate of this parrishe.
corrected 1585.”

[Hyrde, Thomas, sup. for B.A. 12 June 1526, Mar. 152^o he is to respond in the New Logic in the second year after this, adm. 8 Apr., disp. 7 Dec. for poverty. *Boase, Register of the Univ. of Oxford*].

Small Bronze Coins of Roman Usurpers.

By *William Cozens*.

The Roman empire under the emperor Gallienus was in a state of confusion partly caused by the inroads of the barbarians, but chiefly due to usurpation of authority by ambitious men who took advantage of the weakness and laxity of the Imperial Government. The commanders of the army who assumed independent sovereignty